



Love for Adam



A CUDDLE for Adam — and a story to touch your heart on the back page.

Chairman's Christmas Message

AS we come to the end of IYDP we can be thankful for the opportunity the Year has given us to make the citizens of our country aware of the members of our human family for whom every year will be "a year of the disabled." We can only hope that the compassionate aims of 1981 will not be forgotten, and that this international crusade for the handicapped will be remembered in hearts and minds and lead to a new understanding of what it is like to live in a world which can be an alien place for those who cannot walk, speak, see or hear, or who suffer the disadvantage of mental handicap.

The Spastics Society has played its part in endeavouring to make IYDP a significant experience both for the helped and the helpers, and we must now continue our efforts to gain sympathetic acceptance for disabled people next year — and for every year to come.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this challenging year, and to wish you and your families a happy and a peaceful Christmas.

JOYCE SMITH,
The Spastics Society.

THE Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Society is launching an experiment to send nurses on maternity training courses. This was announced at the recent annual meeting, and the Divisional Nursing Officer for Midwifery will select two nursing officers to go on the courses — starting shortly which will cost £500.

Welcome home — thanks to Blue Peter

THANKS to the generous young viewers of the Blue Peter TV programme who took part in the Great Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale Appeal for the Disabled, six severely mentally and physically handicapped children have begun a new life. They have left their hospital wards and moved into the first Blue Peter bungalow, and will live together like a family.

The appeal, administered by the Society, raised nearly £1½ million and Mrs Joyce Smith, the Society's chairman, and Tim Yeo, the Director were present at the opening.

Our picture shows Blue Peter presenters Sarah Green, Simon Groom and Peter Duncan helping Lisa, Jeremy, Brian and Alex settle into their cheerful and comfortable new home.

● Full story and more pictures on page 7.



His fight for right to drive



● MICHAEL O'Sullivan is taking on the Department of Transport over its refusal to allow him a driving licence because of his spastic condition.

MICHAEL O'Sullivan, an 18-year-old A level student in Manchester with cerebral palsy, has enlisted Spastics News in his battle with the Department of Transport over its refusal to grant him a provisional licence.

He wrote: "Because of the nature of my disability, it is vital that I have as much mobility as possible. I have for the last five or six years had a tricycle, which gives me a great deal of independence, and I ride on main roads in total safety.

"In order to gain even more independence I am now very anxious to drive a car with suitable adaptations, but now find myself having great difficulty in obtaining a provisional licence. Before I applied for a provisional, I went to a special British School of Motoring centre in London, which was supposed to deal with the problems of disabled drivers, and in their leaflet, claimed that no disability was too great to deal with.

● Continued on page 3

PM turns down VAT plea from charities

PRIME Minister Margaret Thatcher has turned down an urgent appeal from the VAT Reform Group — made up of eight major charities — for relief from the crippling burden of Value Added Tax.

But in spite of this latest refusal in a long campaign for VAT relief, the fight will go on, and the group is convinced that it has a growing volume of support from the general public, and within Parliament itself. Next volley in the campaign will come in January when a hefty petition will be delivered to 10 Downing Street.

In the letter to the Prime Minister, and another on similar lines which was sent to every MP, the group — which is led by The Spastics Society — outlined the major grievances of charities on VAT. It discounted Treasury claims that charities have benefited to the tune of £30 million from tax concessions granted in the 1980 Finance Act on legacies and covenants. The facts do not bear this out. The Spastics Society's benefit from the Act's provisions amount to £60,000 — while still being faced with an extra bill for VAT of £300,000.

In total the eight charities calculate their benefits from the Act at £544,246 compared with irrecoverable VAT of £1,467,417.

And they are aggrieved that local authorities — performing in many instances precisely the same services — can recover VAT, whereas charities can not.

All this was to no avail.

Mrs Thatcher spoke of the difficulties which would be involved in providing wider VAT relief for the 137,000 registered charities in England and Wales alone "and to make distinctions between more and less deserving charities would be an extremely difficult task."

Mrs Thatcher said the Government valued the work of charities and wished to see it flourish, so had tried to find ways of helping "within the spending constraints." They were conscious that the raising

of VAT from 8 per cent to 15 per cent in 1979 did adversely affect charities, so in the 1980 Budget had introduced "some very substantial measures" to assist them in the direct tax field. These concerned Deeds of Covenant and Capital Transfer Tax, and Mrs Thatcher said that the benefit would be even greater in current and future years. And it was important, she said, "for charities to make every effort to use these tax

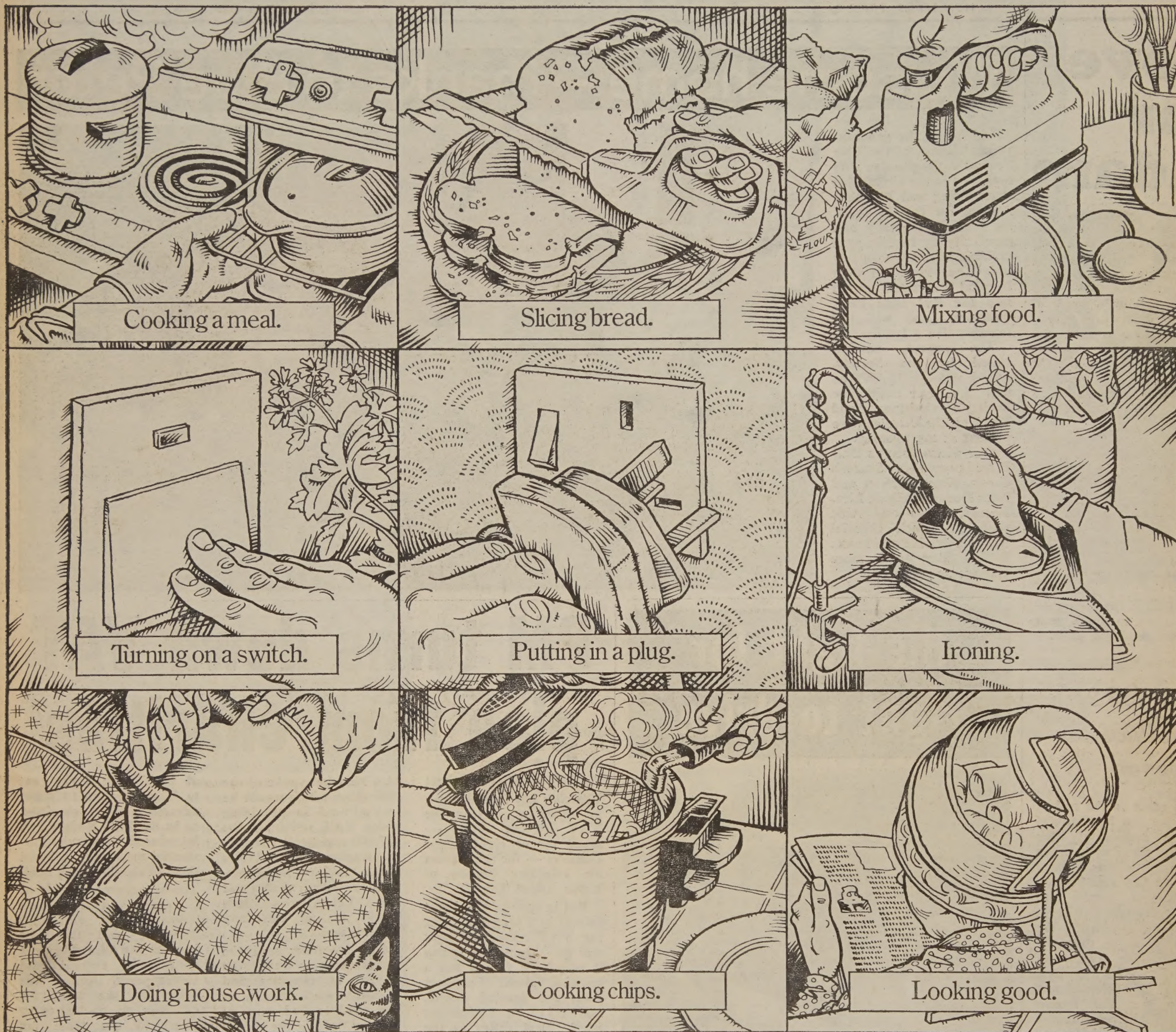
● Continued on page 3

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Is it this easy in your home?

At your Electricity Board, we have a leaflet called "Making Life Easier for Disabled People".

It contains lots of helpful ideas and lists many electrical appliances which can make life easier.

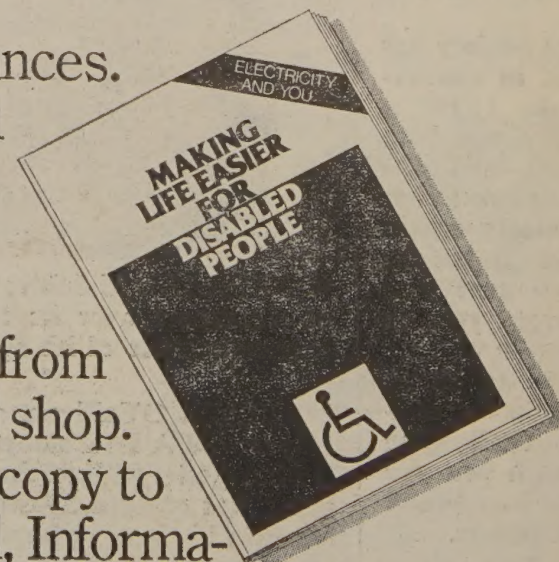
Appliances such as table-top mini cookers. Electric knives which require only a slight pressure to operate. And small, hand-held vacuum cleaners which can be used for dusting, too.

The leaflet also gives details of brailled controls that can be fitted to

certain electrical appliances. And specially designed attachments for plugs and switches which afford easier handling.

The leaflet is free, from your Electricity Board shop. Or you can write for a copy to the Electricity Council, Information Centre, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.

THINKELECTRIC
The Electricity Council, England and Wales.



George's life story

FOR George Dellar 1981 is a very special year — the one in which a dream has come true. For after many years of waiting and hoping, at last his autobiography, "George Dellar's Life Story" has been published. At birth George was given up as dead, but against all expectations, he survived.

The book recounts his life up until the age of 31 and it was his ambition that the book should appear in the International Year of Disabled People. George is a member of the St Albans and District Spastics Society, which has played a major role in bringing about the book's publication, and he attends Abbots Langley Work Centre in Hertfordshire.

Copies, priced at £1 each, are obtainable from Mrs Celia Prettyman of the group and she said: "This is certainly not a money-making venture for George. If any money is made after the costs, George will be donating it to The Spastics Society."

"George's life has not been easy, he is severely spastic, his story is one of perseverance, struggles and persistence to battle against odds, and his achievements in obtaining higher educational qualifications are remarkable."

Orders should be sent to Mrs Prettyman at 14 Mount Drive, Park Street, St Albans, Herts.

VAT plea

Continued from page 1
reliefs to the full."

The Prime Minister concluded her letter by saying she was sorry to have to give a "disappointing reply," but nevertheless, she sent sincere good wishes for all the splendid work done by the charities in the group.

And with this sweet coating on the bitter pill of rejection, the VAT Reform Group had to be content as it prepares for the next round in the battle against what Tim Yeo, the Society's Director, has aptly described as that Very Annoying Tax.

Battling barrister fights the taxman

A FIVE letter word is likely to cost the Inland Revenue millions of pounds and benefit thousands of disabled people thanks to a battling barrister, who is himself handicapped.

The word is "means" and a four-year legal wrangle was resolved in the High Court in favour of Mr Peter Willows who insisted that its use in tax law included a person's income. As a result he will receive a rebate of about £450 on his mobility allowance for the year 1978-79 but Mr Justice Nourse, presiding in the High Court said the ruling had a wider application.

Said Mr Willows: "The Inland Revenue will now

have to go back to 1975 when Mobility Allowance was brought in and pay back all the tax to disabled people."

"I would advise all disabled people who have paid tax on this allowance to write to their inspector of taxes and ask for the money back with interest — pointing out the ruling in my case."

Mr Willows fought the case himself because: "I knew perfectly well that the Inland Revenue was wrong. I looked up the law, consulted my colleagues who were in agreement with me and appealed to the Special Commissioners. They took one and a half hours to reach a decision on a pile of

papers that would have taken four or five hours to read and found against me. It took 18 months for my appeal to reach the High Court and the result in my favour."

Now Mr Willows has started a battle to get the tax appeal system altered. "The Special Commissioners have the same telephone number as the Inland Revenue and they always seem to decide in favour of the Government. It is a waste of time appealing to them, there should be a more independent appeal body," he said.

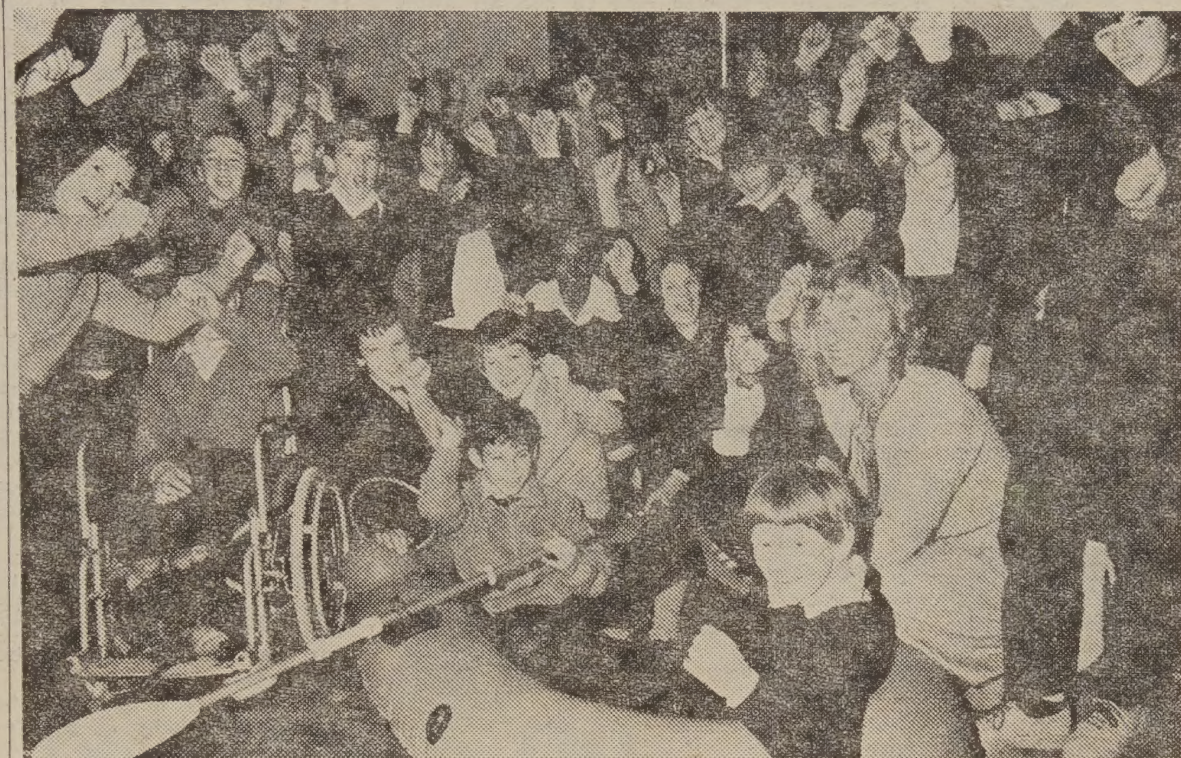
Mr Willows, whose disability prevented him from practising in the courts, read law at Bristol University and went to Grays

Inn for his Bar exams. For nearly 12 years he worked for Bristol Corporation before running a property company. In 1972 he contracted TB and by then tax law had made his business unprofitable. "Since then I've done no work at all—except worrying the Inland Revenue!"

He fought the tax battle as a matter of principle and in order to help other disabled people.

Mr Willows is anxious that as many people as possible agitate to get the law that was altered in April 1979, altered back again, for as many as possible to claim back tax paid up until that date and, most important of all, for everyone to press their MPs to persuade the Chancellor to refrain from taxing invalidity pensions as he has threatened in his next Budget.

They knew the answers



VALERIE Lane, regional senior appeals officer with delighted pupils of Pilton Community College, and the raft she presented to them.

STUDENTS at Pilton Community College, Barnstaple, can put to sea after winning a sponsored quiz run by the Society and Thames TV, in their Ace Reports programme.

The quiz was devised by the Society's senior regional appeals officer, Valerie Lane, who presented the prize of a raft

to the college. Money raised by the quiz will go to the Society's Churchtown Farm, Field Studies Centre at Lanlivery. And on December 22 at 4.45 pm Ace Reports will screen highlights of the 400 kilometre canoe journey down the Alsek River in the Yukon, carried out by a team of international canoeists on behalf of the

Society, and was featured with the quiz.

The voyage was a first ever attempt to navigate the Alsek by canoe and the Society was approached by the canoeists who wanted to make a contribution to the International Year of Disabled People. Tragically one of the canoeists lost his life in the endeavour.



Driving licence plea

Continued from page 1

"The only conclusion I can come to on this place, is that the staff were totally inexperienced towards the problems of spastics, and I was personally disgusted with their attitude."

Subsequently, Michael applied to Swansea for a provisional licence, supplying requested medical information. He was given a medical examination after which his request was turned down.

"I was very unhappy with the doctor who examined me. In the first place the doctor hardly communicated with me and secondly, I do not believe he understood my full capability."

"As far as I am concerned, the doctor came to a decision when he read my notes and realised what my complaint was. In view of this I am preparing to launch an appeal against the decision of the Secretary of State."

Michael lives at Chorltoncum-Hardy and attends the Fourways Assessment Unit in Tyldsley during the week in order to study A Level History and English at Leigh College which is an ordinary college of further education.

He has no speech and uses an electric wheelchair and his family admit that the spasms of athetoid cerebral

palsy make head and hand control difficult. However, his mother, Mrs Jackie O'Sullivan, said: "I'm very hesitant to suggest that he couldn't drive because he's achieved things we thought he could never do, like walking unaided across the room. He travels all over on his trike and has good road sense."

"He has not practised in a car at all and he believes that given time and practice he can overcome any problems just as he did with the trike."

Michael added: "I am very disturbed by the reaction of people towards driving. I am convinced that with the necessary adaptations I am capable of driving a car in complete safety. I make this claim after having 18 years' first-hand experience of my disability."

"I am not suicidal, and if by driving, I thought I would be putting myself or other people in danger, I would not want to drive, this I can promise."

"I would also like to ask what the International Year of Disabled People is for? Is it just for disabled people to accept even more charity and gain even more sympathy, or is it for disabled people, together with the rest of society, to accept the difficulties of the disabled and work-together in a positive manner to overcome these problems? I'm sure if man can go into space, he can find something to enable people with a limited disability to drive!"

Their 10-mile wheelchair push

IT took just eight weeks of planning from start to finish to get Thamesdown and District Spastics Association's sponsored wheelchair push on the road and as the 10-mile route through beautiful Wiltshire countryside unrolled, one sponsoring firm recorded the event on video while a dozen citizen band radio enthusiasts made sure no one lost their way.

Thamesdown's chairman, Tony Long, could not pay high enough tribute to the local firms and voluntary organisations who gave their help to the Association's main contribution to the International Year of Disabled People.

As well as Radio Rentals and CB fans, there were the Swindon Beavers, North Wiltshire Rotary Club, the Red Cross, and a host of local firms who



sponsored each chair for an average of £25.

Said Tony: "Then there were the handicapped persons in the chairs whose ages ranged from nine to 30. They became fully involved in the event in obtaining sponsors."

Some of the handicapped

participants were Tony's daughter Gillian, a pupil at the Society's Craig-y-Parc school which supported her, Helen Jones, Andrew Lowe, Stephen Fox and Wayne Webb.

The event raised £1,500 and an additional £1,000 was donated.

MISS Thamesdown, the Mayor of Highworth, Coun Eric Brown, Tony Long and Gillian, Doug Grant and Stephen Fox, and Moreton Lowe with Andrew, at the start of their 10-mile push.

Picture by Wiltshire Newspapers

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My Venetian buggy ride was a major success

IN the late autumn a friend and I had a short, but absolutely marvellous holiday in Venice. For me, it was the fulfilment of an ambition. I had long wanted to go.

To my mind, Venice is fabulous, but it is not a place for the chairbound. Admittedly it is quite easy to get a wheelchair onto the vaporetti — waterbuses — but once on dry land, one's route is constantly interrupted by bridges. I felt that I was climbing up the staircase of yet another bridge every hundred yards.

In fact it was noticeable how few disabled people we saw. I think I counted seven in six days, and that included one old lady who was just having to walk very slowly. Of the others, five were in wheelchairs, on waterbuses, and might well have been day-trippers from another part of Italy. Only one young man in a wheelchair looked local, and I wondered how far he was confined to the small area bounded by the nearest canals.

In spite of this, I found the Venetians — and others — to be very helpful. Whether this is the result of IYDP, or whether it is just customary to help the infirm over the many bridges which strew one's path, I don't know, but my one word of Italian "grazie" — "thank you" — was much in use.

Having said that Venice

is not a city for the chairbound, I have to confess that our Venetian holiday was a spectacular success largely because we took with us a chair — or rather, a major buggy.

This was not for me an easy decision to make. Within The Spastics Society, I am one of the lucky ones. I learned to walk at the age of six, and I have been able to walk, even if rather inelegantly, ever since. People in a similar position will understand that the ability, even to stagger, from place to place means a lot. It came a little hard to have it pointed out that since I tire easily, and fall a lot, a buggy might enable us both to go a great deal further on our sight-seeing trips.

Alan wanted me to see as much of Venice as possible in the six days we both had to spare. He is a friend of many years' standing, able-bodied, and under no illusions about the extent of my disability. Compared with many handicapped people I have got off fairly lightly, but I still do need quite a lot of help. I am falling more than I did. That much is becoming increasingly obvious, even to me. Nevertheless I did not want to take a buggy. I invented numerous good reasons why it would not be a good idea. Alan said that I need only use it when I was tired. It would fold

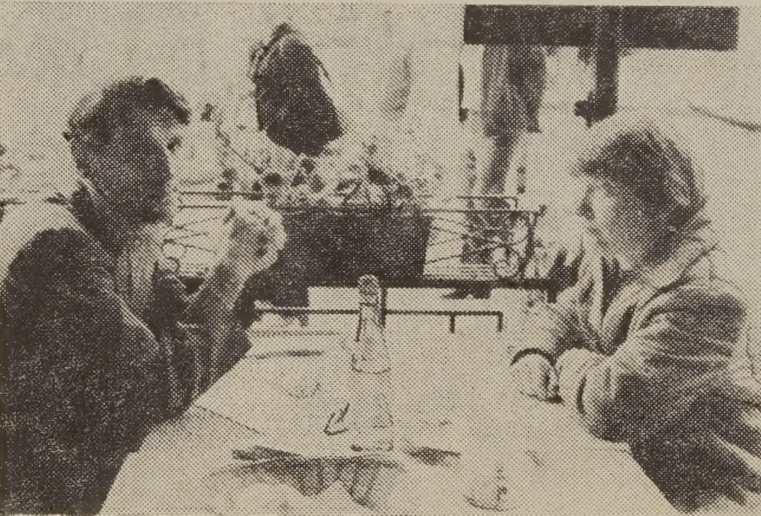


VALERIE Lang, a disabled member of the Society's Executive Council, went to Venice with a special item of "luggage." The picture of her, right, in St Mark's Square tells why her holiday was such a "major" success...

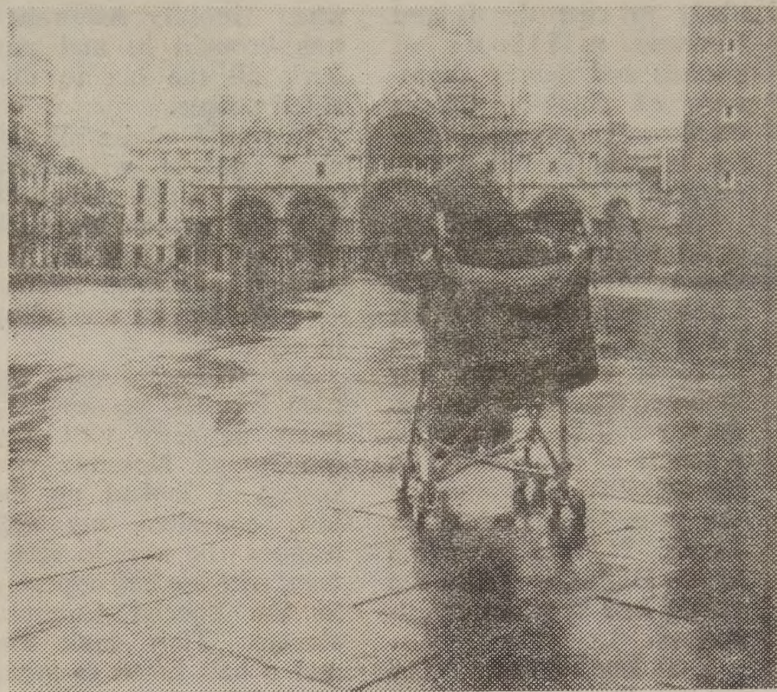
up and sit on his arm when I did not want it.

We took the buggy!

We were able to borrow one from the Society's Family Services Centre at Fitzroy Square, London, and



Coffee break, Venetian style.



it really did make all the difference. I rode in it a great deal, saving my energy for taking in the sights. I was surprised to find it was quite comfortable. Moreover, no one looked at me as if it was odd to see an adult in a buggy.

The buggy came even more into its own when we went inside some of the old buildings. The Venetians, when they built these grand palaces, had a passion for painting pictures on the ceil-

ings. I could not help wondering how people had looked at them in those days. They were not equipped with major buggies like mine. It so happened that Alan had discovered that the best place for our shoulder bag full of guide books and extra sweaters, was slung across the handles of the buggy. Its strap made the ideal neck-rest for me, and I could lean back in comfort and look at paintings, or gaze in wonder at the incredible mosaics in the Basilica of San Marco.

The buggy did allow Alan to take me a lot further than I could have walked. I am glad that I decided to accept an extra aid to mobility on what was an extra special holiday. For anyone who can walk far enough on most occasions, it might be worth considering a loan of a buggy just for that holiday when sightseeing is important. We found the major buggy well able to take my eight stones, to be fairly light weight in itself, and easy to fold, out of the way, when not in use.

It certainly helped me to have the holiday of a lifetime.

Directory has all the facts

JUST published is a new and expanded third edition of the Directory for the Disabled, compiled by Ann Darnbrough and Derek Kinrade. The material for each entry has been collected, checked at source and expanded where necessary by the editors.

The book covers a whole range of subjects, commencing with a chapter on the statutory services, benefits and allowances for disabled people and going on to cover such topics as further education, aids, house and home, employment, holidays in Britain and abroad, mobility and motoring, sport and leisure, sex and advisory services. In particular, it gives full details of the significant changes in statutory benefits which have taken place since the last edition. For each chapter, the names and addresses of suppliers are provided, as well as a description of the product or service concerned.

The directory is useful for all disabled people, for their family and friends, for organisations and charities involved with disabled people and as an essential reference book for professionals.

In his foreword to the directory, Lord Snowdon lays stress on the importance of easily accessible information: "It is through knowledge gained that those who are handicapped in any way will find the means to exercise choice and be integrated into the community in education, at work or in leisure activities."

Directory for the Disabled is available from all leading booksellers in the UK or direct from the publishers, Woodhead-Faulkner Limited, 17 Market Street, Cambridge CB2 3PA, at a cost of £6.50 (paperback) and £10.85 (hardback) inclusive of postage and packing.

YOUNG OUTLOOK

ADDISCOMBE: 307 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon.
ANDOVER: 66 High Street, Hampshire.
ASHTON - UNDER - LYNE: 17 Delamere Street, Gt Manchester.
BARKING: 56 Longbridge Road, Essex.
BARKINGSIDE: 97 High Street, Essex.
BASINGSTOKE: 11/13 Flaxfield Road, Hampshire.
BEXHILL-ON-SEA: 39 Sackville Road, Sussex.
BINGLEY: 79 Main Street, Yorkshire.
BISHOPS STORTFORD: 1 Devoils Lane, Hertfordshire.
BRIGHTON: 33 Gardner Street and 72 London Road, Sussex.
BURTON - ON - TRENT:

123 High Street, Staffordshire.
CAMDEN: 73 Camden High Street, London NW1.
CAMBRIDGE: 28 Fitzroy Street, Cambridgeshire.
CANTERBURY: Friars Corner, 11 St Peters Street, Kent.
CARLISLE: 43 Bank Street, Cumbria.
CATERHAM: 64 Croydon Road, Surrey.
CHATHAM: 113 High Street, Kent.
CHESTER: 115 Brook Street.
CLACTON - ON - SEA: 13 Rosemary Road, Essex.
CLEETHORPES: 60 High Street, Humberside.
COLWYN BAY: 79 Aber-gale Road, North Wales.
CROYDON: 23 London Road and 46/47 Whitgift Centre, Surrey.
DARLINGTON: 9 Skinner-gate, County Durham.
DARTFORD: 104 The Brent, Kent.
DORKING: 15a Dene Street, Surrey.
DUNSTABLE: 14 Albion Street, Bedfordshire.
EAST GRINSTEAD: 61/63 London Road, Sussex.
ECCLES: 2 Church Street, Greater Manchester.
EDGELEY: 85a Castle Street, Stockport, Cheshire.
ELTHAM: 2/4 Court Yard and 50 High Street, London.

FAREHAM: 139 West Street, Hampshire.
FOLKESTONE: 368 Cheriton Road, Kent.
GILLINGHAM: 82a/82b High Street and 17 Twydall Green, Kent.
GOSPORT: 17 North Cross Street, Hampshire.
GRANTHAM: 15 Wharf Road, Lincolnshire.
HACKNEY: 4 Morning Lane, London E8.
HALSTEAD: 27 High Street, Essex.
HARROGATE: 13 Beulah Street, Yorkshire.
HASTINGS: 22 White Rock, Sussex.
HATFIELD: 5 Market Place, Hertfordshire.
HAZEL GROVE: 197 London Road, Stockport, Cheshire.
HITCHIN: 5 Market Place, Hertfordshire.
HORLEY: 78 Victoria Road, Surrey.
HORSHAM: 7 North Street, West Sussex.
HOVE: 8 George Street, Sussex.
HULL: 169 Holderness Road, Humberside.
HUNTINGDON: 67 High Street, Cambridgeshire.
ISLINGTON: 6/8 High Street, London N1.
KEIGHLEY: 31 Cavendish Street, Yorkshire.
KILBURN: 236 High Road, London NW6.

LEEDS: 17 Boar Lane, Yorkshire.
LEICESTER: 163 Evington Road.
LEICESTER: 15/17 Rutland Street.
LETHWORTH: 30 The Broadway, Hertfordshire.
LEWES: 170a High Street, Sussex.
LEWISHAM: 7 Lewis Grove, London SE13.
MACCLESFIELD: 86 Mill Street, Cheshire.
NANTWICH: 28 Pillory Street, Cheshire.
NEWPORT: 15 Alway Parade, Gwent.
NORTHAMPTON: 22 Wellingborough Road, Northants.
NOTTINGHAM: 7 Trinity Walk.
OSWESTRY: 21 Cross Street, Shropshire.
PADDOCK WOOD: 91 Commercial Road, Kent.
PECKHAM: 93 High Street, London SE15.
PETTS WOOD: 1 Station Square, Kent.
REDCAR: 6 Bath Street, Cleveland.
RHYL: 3 Lyric Buildings, Market Street, Clwyd.
SEAFORD: 24 Chilton Place, Sussex.
SHEERNESS: 80 High Street, Kent.
SIDCUP: 5 Market Parade, Kent.
SITTINGBOURNE: 1 Ro-

man Square, Kent.
SOUTHAMPTON: 132 St Mary's Street, Hampshire.
STOCKPORT: 2-4 Great Underbank, Cheshire.
SYDENHAM: 131 Sydenham Road, Kent.
TAUNTON: 2 Station Road, Somerset.
TONBRIDGE: 37 High Street, Kent.
TOTNES: 22 Fore Street, Devon.
WALSALL: 53c Lower Wall Lane, West Midlands.
WALTHAMSTOW: 210 High Street, London E17.

WELLINGBOROUGH: 25 Silver Street, Northamptonshire.
WEST MALLING: 48 High Street, Kent.
WEST WICKHAM: 103 Weybridge, 23 High Street, Kent.
WIGSTON: 90 Leicester Road, Leicestershire.
WINCHESTER: 71 Parchment Street, Hampshire.
WINDSOR: 101 Peacod Street, Berkshire.
WOKING: 20 Chertsey Road, Surrey.

Spread a little happiness

WANT to spread a little happiness this Christmas? Of course you do! And this is how to go about it. . . .

Look out your lonely, unwanted toys and take them to your nearest Spastics Society shop (the full list is printed here). When Christmas comes you will probably

receive new toys, but your old forgotten ones could be sold to raise money to help a spastic child in your area.

In return you will receive a Lonely Toys Appeal badge—and a nice, warm feeling of seasonal goodwill. But hurry, it's nearly Christmas. . . .



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A growing success

THE Watford Achievement Club founded by two former '62 Club members Robert Venn and his wife for handicapped youngsters between the ages of 11 and 18 is going from strength to strength. Mr and Mrs Venn have organised a number of activities including parties, outings and expeditions to a wide variety of events.

The Venns acknowledge the help they have had not only from the Watford Spastics Group and Centre

but also the local community and now a paid leader had joined the club which meets at Cassio College Youth Wing between 7-9 pm on Thursday evenings.

Anyone wishing to know more of the club, which aims to help with any problems arising for disabled youngsters and also promote integration within society should contact the Venns at 18 St Laurence Close, Abbots Langley, Watford WD5 0AU.

'Appeals on Wheels' Colin clocks up the cash . . .

MEET Colin Websdell and his amazing "Appeals on Wheels" service.

Every summer for the past eight years, 36-year-old Colin has toured the highroads and by-roads of south Norfolk around his home at Pulham St Mary collecting money for the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

Over those years he has clocked up literally thousands of miles on his trusty bicycle, and he has just finished this summer and autumn "season" by running up another four-figure total . . . £2,000 raised for the Association.

But it has not been all downhill freewheelin'—he recalls, for instance, that when he first took to the roads he brought back just £20 at the end of the first tour.

It took him five long years to raise the first £1,000—but only three to double it.

Naturally he has become a well known figure around the roads of Norfolk, he has made friends in all the towns and villages on his beat and these days people have the money ready for him when he arrives and ask when he is coming back.

Colin is himself a spastic and has worked at the Work Centre in Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, for the past 14 years. During the week he also stays at the Norwich hostel, going back to his mother's home in Pulham St Mary at weekends—and when it is time to get out and about on his bike.

In fact it was through the centre, and particularly vice-chairman Mr Peter Blackburn, who was looking for ways of improving the Association's contacts in rural areas, that Colin first took to the roads.

"I was out of work at the time and Mr Blackburn had

a word with me about fund raising and asked me if I would like to do some, and that was it really," he said. "Of course it helps keep me fit for one thing, and I have no intention of stopping while I can still get round and people are still so friendly and generous."

Colin generally dusts off his cycle clips around Easter time and finishes for the year in October, and can cycle anything up to 100 miles a week.

The centre allows Colin two weeks off for the collecting, and he makes up the rest of the time it takes from his holidays, spare time and weekends.

"I go to one village, work my way round there on a door-to-door basis, and then move on to the next," he said. "When I started I used to take round collecting envelopes, but these days I find most people know me so well they have the money ready for when I call."

Not that it is all sunshine all the way: "If the weather is really bad or blowy I try to find somewhere to take shelter, but it is not always possible and I have had many a soaking."

Colin usually keeps two bikes, one as a spare in case problems like punctures, snapped chains and faulty valves crop up: or even more serious problems.

"I was involved in an accident about three years ago when one of them was a 'write off' — I always keep both insured against accidents because without them I wouldn't be able to carry on," he said.

And he also paid tribute to all the help he gets, and particularly from his mother: "It really has been a joint effort, people everywhere have supported me and I could not have done



it at all without them."

Group Executive Officer of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association Mr Harry Knight said: "Colin collects through our South Norfolk branch, which is actually based in Pulham St Mary."

"The money has come in gradually and you can't actually put your finger on something and say the cash was used for this or that.

But we have had a special insulating film fitted to all the windows at the work centre, which of course has also given us a saving on fuel and heating costs, and without Colin either we could not have afforded to have this done — or something else would have suffered."

Picture of Colin by Eastern Daily Press.

Bursaries for disabled who help others

THE Association of '62 Clubs is launching a bursary scheme worth up to £250 for a project planned and undertaken by a disabled person or group for the benefit of the handicapped generally.

The scheme has been announced by the founder of the '62 Club movement, Mr Bill Hargreaves, and funding will come from money held by the Association. At its recent AGM, the Association decided that each of the 28 clubs should have the opportunity of remaining with The Spastics Society, operating under its charity registration, or affiliating to the Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied organisation, PHAB.

It was also decided that remaining money held by the Association should be retained in order to create the bursary scheme.

The projects planned should demonstrate the disabled person's ability, enterprise and self-reliance. Mr Hargreaves listed a wide range of possibilities. These included organising and taking a self-catering holiday for the first time, organising and reporting back on conferences at home and

abroad, initiating another '62 Club or similar self-help organisation, fund-raising, initiating a scheme to help the house-bound, promoting social and cultural activities between handicapped and non-handicapped.

Mr Hargreaves says that preference will be given to '62 Club members when plans of equal merit are received. Applications be sent to him at 12 Park Crescent, London WIN 4EQ.

Workers aid Hall fund

BIG hearted employees of TI New World Ltd, of Latchford, have been taking time off work . . . and raised over £1,300 towards a £4 million target for essential improvements to the Society's Daresbury Hall residential centre.

The money will enable one room at the hall to be completely kitted out with beds, armchairs, wardrobe and sink.

The TI New World effort began in February, and money came in from weekly shop floor collections, a sponsored swim and slim, jumble sales, raffles and a charity dance. Now the appeal director, Mrs Oriska Cameron, has received a £1,370 cheque from the company's personnel director, Mr Bob Naylor.

No fears on baby monitors

THE use of fetal monitors on pregnant women and recent allegations that they intensify the very distress they are intended to identify has caused concern in one of the many local groups which have made the purchase of such a monitor their contribution to the International Year of Disabled People.

Mrs B. Bowen, Chairman of the Colwyn Bay District Group, read the comments of Jessica Hall in the columns of *Spastics News* questioning the value of fetal monitors and as the group has just bought and donated a 140 Antepartum Fetal Monitor to H. M. Stanley Hospital, St Asaph, wrote to the consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Mr David Thomas. She said: "His reply was reassuring and I feel it would be helpful to other groups who might be in a similar position of doubt."

Mr Thomas's reply was as follows:

"The criticisms regarding fetal monitoring in labour do not apply as far as the monitor you helped us to buy is concerned. This is used entirely in the antenatal ward before labour starts and helps identify those cases which will be at risk in labour. Indeed, it may be decided as a result of the investigations to carry out a caesarean section rather than allow the patient to go into labour."

"We use the other fetal monitoring equipment in St Asaph in the labour ward

but by using scalp electrodes and intra-uterine pressure monitoring we are able to allow the patient free movement around the bed and our patients lie in a position most comfortable to them, usually on their left side."

"If you, or one of your Committee would like to come up to St Asaph when your machine is in action, I would be happy to arrange for a demonstration."

Any ideas on toys?

TOYS are the work tools that help the developing child towards maturity but for the handicapped youngster many conventional playthings are impossible to use.

Many parents and therapists encountering this problem set to with screwdrivers and determination to provide suitable toys for handicapped children with considerable success. If you have produced such a toy or know someone who has the Handicapped Persons Research Unit of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic would like to hear from you.

The Unit is mounting a special exhibition: "Play-aids for the Handicapped Child" next June in Newcastle and are seeking examples and prototypes.

If you can help contact Ednie Wilson at the Unit, 1 Coach Lane, Coach Lane Campus, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE7 7TW.



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Advice on facing the future

THE Spastics Society has published the latest leaflet in its series to help parents of handicapped children.

Entitled "Facing the Future," it deals with the problems encountered by parents as their multiply handicapped children grow older, and also with the problems facing parents whose children suffer handicap as a result of accident or illness.

There is advice on explaining the situation to friends and other members of the family, and helping brothers and sisters adjust.

Another important issue broached is that one day a family may face separation from their handicapped child, or indeed that the child will be left alone after the parents have died. The leaflet covers this subject sympathetically, while other important problems are dealt with in previous leaflets. A recommended extra reading list is contained.

The leaflet can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Information Department, 12 Park Crescent, London, WIN 4EQ.

Finding a satisfying new lifestyle

David's way with words

DAVID is 43, married with a family, and living in Nottingham. His disability mostly affects his legs but his arms and hands are also weak. Despite this, as a teenager he got a job as a joiner-builder and sang with a 12-piece band at weekends. Eventually he had to give up both, and a Society social worker encouraged him to take up something new. He decided to write—"I submitted my very first story to the Society's literary competition and, to my utter amazement, it won a major prize. That was in 1976 and I've been writing ever since."

"Quite a lot of my stories have been on the radio and the BBC in Derby say they will take as many as I can send them." David points out this is not lucrative—they pay only £5 for a story which may take a week to write.

Said David: "Writing gives a tremendous feeling of self-respect, I think. You are your own master when you write and people are actually listening to what YOU have to say. Writing is one area where physical disability does not count at all."

New hope for disabled — and unemployed

A GARDENER, a photographer and a writer are among a dozen contributors to a new Society booklet to be published soon, and the one factor they all have in common is that they are cerebral palsied. Despite their disabilities, they have gone on to make a valuable contribution to the community around them while at the same time leading full-filled lives.

It is hoped that the booklet: "New Ways of Living; experiences of cerebral palsied people who have found satisfying alternatives to paid employment" will not only serve to encourage other people with the same handicap but give new hope to anyone who finds themselves unemployed.

Miss Margaret Morgan, the Society's Controller of Personal Services explained: "This year of IYDP seemed a particularly appropriate time for this book. In it is interesting information about the views and activities of a group of ordinary people who happen to be handicapped in one way or another."

"This year has also been one of devastatingly high unemployment among all age groups, but especially

among young people. Many of those featured in this book had difficult times of adjustment after they left school. Like other school leavers they had hoped to be able to find stimulating and worthwhile employment, but because of their disabilities this did not prove possible in the long term.

"The main aim of this booklet is to give other people who are unemployed — whether disabled or not — some ideas about useful and interesting activities that may well be available in their neighbourhood. I am convinced that many of us have a great deal to learn, whether disabled or not from those who have disabilities and who have already found satisfying alternatives to paid employment."



JIM Howell and his wife.

JIM lives at St Mawes, Cornwall, and is chairman of the Truro branch of the Cornish Spastics Society. Two years ago, Jim who has athetoid cerebral palsy, married at the age of 52. His mobility is restricted, his hand control severely affected although his speech is easy to understand, and he has always led an independent and active life.

His particular passion is gardening and he uses ordinary garden tools without any particular modifications. He doesn't have any difficulty digging over the ground thoroughly for vegetables but sowing

small seeds does present problems — he has never managed carrots or beet-roots. Roses with their thorns are too difficult to prune so he grows camellias instead.

Said Jim: "The world is full of interest — it just needs something to spark it off in each individual. Besides plants, I have always been interested in ornithology and in stamp collecting. As a young man I also loved sailing and I would often go out all day long fishing on my own. The world around us is so full of fascinating things — I really don't think I would have time to go to work!"

Lynne helps others

LYNNE is 31 and lives in the West Country and although she occasionally needs to use a wheelchair she is completely independent and her speech is not affected.

She runs her own home which she shares with her budgie and cat since the end of her marriage, which lasted three years. For the last 18 months she has been helping out at a local Opportunity Group for both able-bodied and physically handicapped children. It was first suggested to her by a careers officer.

Said Lynne: "I go to the Group for two days every week, which is about as much time as I want to spend on it at present. The work involves helping to feed and playing with the children and I get a great deal of pleasure from it. It costs nothing this sort of thing, yet it is so rewarding. I now also attend a playgroup foundation course and have been offered the chance to help with another playgroup in the area. My advice to anyone just starting this type of voluntary work is merely to be confident in your own abilities."

Sandra the volunteer

SANDRA is 25 and receives sickness and invalidity benefit — her disability follows an illness requiring brain surgery and she cannot work a full day without getting violent headaches. She decided after several interviews had been unproductive for jobs, that voluntary work might be the answer. Her aunt works for The Spastics Society and suggested she might go along to help at a centre for physically handicapped children. So Sandra now looks after spastic children for up to five hours one day a week and has been doing this for three years.



SANDRA at the Spastics Shop.

these activities very much — both places have a pleasant atmosphere, everyone is helpful and always ready to answer questions — a lesson that employers in open industry could usefully learn!"

The fact that her travelling expenses are met, she admits, makes it easier to undertake the work — otherwise she might simply not be able to afford it. She also finds the right balance of time allowing

her to fulfil her domestic chores without strain.

"I doubt that this work could ever lead to paid employment, in the current economic climate especially as I have no specific training and could not compete with those who have. This does not bother me unduly — voluntary work is extremely rewarding and it is good for one's self respect to feel that one can do something for the community..."

Donna — 'my right to work'

DONNA, aged 18, was confident of her own ability but her employment officer's only response on hearing what she'd set her heart on was: "Whoever heard of a cook in a wheelchair?"

"What chance do disabled people have, when faced with such attitudes, even among those who are supposed to be trying to help them?" asked Donna.

"Instead of cookery I took up typing which I love and I am determined to fight until I am given a job — I firmly believe I have the same right to work as anyone else. It is only my body that's disabled — not my mind."

"On Friday evenings I help run a club for handicapped children and I really love this work. We organise a lot of games for handicapped children and it is my job to train the children and get them ready. It is only for one night a week and I would really like to spend more of my time doing this sort of work."

Donna is confined to a wheelchair and has undergone a number of operations on her back, hips and knees and lives on social security at the moment.

Roy in focus



ROY is 35 and lives in the Newcastle upon Tyne area where he is employed full time cleaning and checking lenses for a spectacle firm. His spastic diplegia affects his hands and legs but he has reasonable control of his hands. Enough, in fact, to make a success of his hobby of photography.

Within weeks of completing a correspondence course on the subject he had a photograph published in the national magazine, "Amateur Photographer" which went on to use another on the front cover. There is a steady demand for his services taking pictures at weddings and most weekends are spent in the dark room printing up photographs.

Catriona's

DESPITE her athetoid cerebral palsy which makes her hand control very difficult and slightly affects her speech, Catriona left her home in Ireland where she had a very sheltered upbringing to come to England alone when she was 17.

Within three weeks of her arrival the Society found her a job — as a cleaner in a mental hospital. It was hard work scrubbing the floors on her hands and knees but she stuck it for two years. After a Society commercial course she also stuck four years in a warehouse as a filing clerk.

But Catriona's heights were set higher than hospital floors and widowless warehouses — she per-

Serving

Then through her aunt, she learnt that the local Spastics Shop needed volunteers. The work at the centre requires patience and understanding and can be mentally exhausting while work at the shop, tidying and serving, is less taxing.

Said Sandra: "One learns by experience how to cope in these various situations — whether it is answering a customer's questions or responding to the needs of a spastic person. I enjoy

A new home, a new life, thanks to young viewers

THANKS to the millions of children who watched the BBC's Blue Peter programme and ran bring-and-buy days, six youngsters already enjoying life in a cheery bungalow instead of a long-stay subnormality hospital.

And the famous Blue Peter trio, Sarah Peene, Peter Duncan and Simon Groome, were there to welcome them into their new home in the grounds of St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, after the official opening in November by Joey Bacon — who started all.

As Biddy Baxter, "Blue Peter's" Editor, explained, it was all due to chance and coincidence. Joey who is severely cerebral palsied got to fame when his unintelligible grunts were interpreted and transcribed by his friends, Ernie Roberts, Tom Blackburn and Michael Angster into his autobiography "Tongue-tied." His life story was then filmed by BBC TV and then shown in Holland captured the hearts of the generous Dutch people. So moved were they by Joey's story they contributed enough money to build a bungalow for Joey in the grounds of St Lawrence's where he had spent most of his life.

Covering the opening of the bungalow was a girl from the local paper, the Grey Mirror. She went home to tell her father what a fantastic story it was — would it be good enough for John Craven's Newsround? Her father, head of BBC children's

television replied instantly "No — it's far too important — give it to 'Blue Peter'."

As a result, Joey and company appeared on the programme and, said Biddy — "Joey and his friends were absolutely marvellous. What staggered us was the response of the children who saw them. They were enormously impressed by Joey and to cut a long story short we decided in the International Year of Disabled People to build another bungalow, this time for children.

Lucky

"We were very, very lucky to work with The Spastics Society which did all the behind the scenes administration and we're very grateful to the Director, Tim Yeo, and Chairman, Mrs Joyce Smith, for all their help. The 'Blue Peter' appeals are not just to raise money — but with so many children watching every child can do

something and know that it helps.

The band of the Women's Royal Army Corps struck up "Congratulations" and Goldie the Blue Peter dog wagged her tail with happiness as the six severely handicapped children made their way into their new home. It had taken nine months from the time Simon turned the first sod in the grounds of the hospital till the moment Peter cut the ribbon to the front door of the £50,000 bungalow.

For Angela, nine, Jeremy, nine, Brian, 13, Alex, 10, and Stuart, 12, the Blue Peter bungalow will provide a perfect home in the care of nurses, Betty Huggett and Derek Riggs. Said Betty and Derek: "We are very excited because the bungalow has a lovely homely atmosphere, and it will be much better for the children than the old block.

Three more "Blue Peter" bungalows are nearing completion in Cardiff, Lanark and Northern Ireland, to bring a new dimension of life to severely handicapped children. The appeal raised nearly £1½ million to buy aids and equipment as well as build bungalows.



● ABOVE: Sarah, Peter and Simon with Angela, Brian, Alex, Lisa and Jeremy who will now live as a family in the Blue Peter bungalow instead of a hospital ward.



● LEFT: With a little help from his Blue Peter friend, Sarah, Joey unveils the plaque watched by Ernie Roberts and Tom Blackburn, left, and Simon and Peter. Joey was thrilled and through Ernie said: "It's a very exciting day — one of the highlights of my life. And it's highlights like this that have kept me going." Joey held a party in his bungalow for all the people who attended the official opening.



Special appeal of label campaign

THE Heinz label appeal linked in with the Society's "Save a Baby" campaign had a special meaning for one mother in Berwick-on-Tweed.

With her bundle of labels, she included a letter.

"I, myself, have lost two babies, so I hope you achieve your target. After all my tries I had a baby boy on March 7 and he loves Heinz baby foods, especially rice pud—and so does his mum!"

Target

The Heinz appeal did in fact reach its target of 1 million labels worth £25,000, but remember those "Save a baby" labels are still precious. They and every other Heinz wrapper is worth 1p to the firm's new £½ million appeal on behalf of the Society and 11 other leading charities.

If you buy a Heinz product without the new appeal label don't throw it away, just write "The Spastics Society" on the back and be sure to hand it into the collecting box in your local supermarket or better still, your nearest Spastics Shop.

ambition

started with her education to the extent that she won a degree from Manchester University. A placement in Community Service Volunteers found her working in Warrington Prison, the only woman, and living in a bachelor quarters. Patricia then got a Certificate of Education which allowed her to do part-time teaching until the position meant cutbacks in that field and she is now going to join the Probation Service on a full-time basis.

He stresses the need for professional qualifications and what she terms "mobility" — it's essential there are no short cuts to success. It takes time and you have to be prepared to "go it out."

Fundraising teaches children an important lesson

CHRISTMAS is coming, and the nervous are already conducting a mental countdown of the shopping days left.

A time for Peace on earth and Goodwill to all men, and a time assuredly for sparing a thought and a copper or two — above the commercial jingle of the cash-till bells — for the less fortunate.

And it is not only the recipients that benefit from the funds — the fund raisers gain a great deal too, particularly if they are children.

No less a publication than the influential "Junior Education" has come out with a reasoned

defence of sponsored events and projects in our schools and the practical benefits such things can give our children.

Children who are often lacking little themselves in the material sense, it says, can learn to think of others less fortunate.

And of course the benefits for the charities can also be considerable, one of them receives approximately one-seventh of its raised income from schools.

Sponsored events of all kinds are still the most popular, and the possibili-

ties are there for almost unlimited fund raising. The report points out that events with an educational flavour, such as spell-ins or tables, are always popular with parents and are likely to be well supported as a result.

The report notes that handicapped children, so often on the receiving end of charity themselves, also feel the need to make a contribution.

A charity which encourages fund raising to sponsor a specific Third World child, quotes one London school where the

severely handicapped pupils, aware of how lucky they are when compared with the lives of disabled children in poor countries have sponsored a nine-year-old spastic boy in his school in Bangalore.

The "Junior Education" report concludes like this: "Fund-raising activities may be highly organised or they may occur on the spur of the moment: they may be to raise money for far-away lands and people or to give a helping hand to a local charity. But they will be found in every school where the Head believes that an important aspect of education is teaching children what giving is all about."

Job-seeking youngsters in Operation 'spick and span'



SMART as new paint: unemployed youngsters who are doing voluntary work painting and decorating at the Spastics Society run Hampton House for the young handicapped at Lumbertubs, Northamptonshire.

Picture by the Northants Chronicle and Echo.

A SCHEME to find work for jobless youngsters in the Northampton area has had a smart spin-off for the young handicapped at Hampton House, Lumbertubs, which is run by The Spastics Society.

Because the Emmanuel Interlink Job Scheme has got off the ground with a painting and decorating job at the centre.

At present it is a one year pilot-project and is based on the Emmanuel Interlink Church Youth Club and forms part of the wider Operation Job Scheme launched by the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs in the summer.

Operation Job Scheme aims a two-pronged attack at unemployment in the area by finding voluntary work and work under the Manpower Services Commission Youth Opportunities Programme.

So far there have been around 30 inquiries from different organisations and villages in the area wanting to take up one of the work projects, but the Hampton House scheme was the first voluntary one to be started, explained the NAYC director, the Rev Harry Whittaker.

Co-ordinator for the scheme, Mr Tim Voltzenlogel, said they were looking for unemployed or retired painters and decorators who could act as supervisors.

So 'disgusted' by pupils' views

ONE of the most remarkable letters which Spastics News has ever received has come jointly from two Birmingham girls — describing themselves as "cerebral palsy sufferers" — in response to a feature in Young Outlook which described the reactions of pupils who saw one of the Society's films. As we pointed out at the time, some of the reactions DID shock — but it must be remembered that most were warmly compassionate and concerned.

WE are writing in response to the article in the October issue of Spastics News (Young Outlook page) in which work by pupils at the John Port School at Etwell, Derbyshire, was published.

These pupils were asked for their reactions after watching a film about a spastic couple, entitled "Like Other People." Spastics News informed us that we may find some of the views shocking, but that at least, "the film made the young people think." We disagree with this, as surely thoughtful people could not write such offensive and fictional statements such as the ones printed.

Frankly we were disgusted, and we did not think that you were fair to publish some of this calous work, when so many spastic people would read it. Some of it was very, very insulting.

We realise that there are some ignorant individuals who have no time for the handicapped, but why should we be subjected to seeing these people's thoughts in print? It was clear that they know nothing at all about cerebral palsy, and indeed, do not wish to know. Most disabled are well aware how some people treat us, but it does not mean we want to be reminded all the time. We do not believe everyone is the same towards us, most people are lovely, so if a few are too heartless to want to know us, we do not wish to know them.

Happy

We may be handicapped but what we lack in some ways, we gain in others, at least most of the disabled we know try to accept people for what they are. We would rather be disabled, friendly and happy than able-bodied, miserable and ignorant. A good heart is more important than a healthy body and most of the time the majority of spastics are very happy and contented people, not mixed up or lonely. We are just as stable as everyone else and we have just as many friends, most of us accept our handicap and make the most out of life. Nobody is perfect, everyone has some problems, ours is obvious but most people have hidden problems. We're not useless because they have physical health and we have not.

The way some people misuse the word "spastic" angers us. They use it to describe idiotic or mental behaviour. Our brains are damaged but only the part that controls physical activity and even then there are different types of cerebral palsy and different degrees, but we are still intelligent.

We, ourselves are affected in our legs and feet and slightly in our hands. Our speech is not affected, we talk perfectly intelligibly and we do not moan or groan, we do not speak slowly or talk in a low voice. It is true that some spastics have a speech impediment, but many can and do speak as well as other people, sometimes clearer.

Why do some people behave as if spastics have

Parents should be grateful

I HAVE just read the article in the November issue of Spastics News on Disability and Poverty, and was interested in the mention of the nappies costing £1.75 per week. I do not believe it! My son is 23 years old, in nappies day and night and I get 6-8 months wear out of nappies at £14.99 per dozen.

The boy in the article was said to be five years old and incontinent. Surely his mother has heard of incontinence sheets and plastic pants, and in most cases these are supplied by local authorities.

Parents of handicapped children today do not know the meaning of poverty. No doubt the mother gets the attendance allowance and everyone gets child benefit now, even for the first child. My son was 12 years old before we had one penny extra, and no child benefit then when you had an only child.

Priority

Lots of families were in the same position, too. I had to do without lots of things so that Ian could have the things he needed. I did not have a spindrier until he was eight years old and then it was only a second-hand one. He was 14 when I had my washing machine and I have only just had a tumble-drier. We need a caravanette to transport Ian about, so our transport has to take first priority over other things.

Some people, I fear, are never satisfied. Much wants more, and more wants the lot, and "do-gooders" don't help matters. They blow up some things out of all proportions via newspapers and TV.

After all, it is not Government money which pays out allowances, pensions, etc, but the British workers out of tax and insurance contributions, and when each pension rises so does the working man and woman's insurance stamp. The are a lot of old people, too, who are disabled and (in most cases) they receive much less help than we do.

So parents and "do-gooders" alike, be thankful for what is received. I am, S. E. WARREN (Mrs), 2 Longner Street, Mountfields, Shrewsbury.

What a year!

AS the International Year of Disabled People draws to an end I would like to say that I thoroughly enjoyed it. I met many other disabled people and many aspects of disability were discussed. I enjoyed a free holiday to Jersey, attended the service for the disabled at Canterbury Cathedral, and went to the South East Regional Conference on Alternatives to Residential Care.

I bought a new suit to attend the garden party for the disabled at Buckingham Palace and had a wonderful time as a delegate at the Society's AGM. I personally have very much enjoyed 1981 — the International Year of Disabled People.

CHRISTOPHER WATERS, Clement Court, Maidstone, Kent.

YOUR FREE ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR sale: electric-powered "Posturecare" bed. Fully adjustable and operated by two switches to adjust bed to any position from sitting to horizontal or head-down position. Unused and as new. Cost £545. Reasonable offers invited. Ring Upper Warlingham (820) 3801.

DISABLED guy, 26, wants to meet girl in similar circumstances, aged 19-26, preferably in Midlands area, but will write to anyone. I live in Birmingham. Interests include pop concerts and cinema. I drive car. — Please reply to Box 103, Spastics News.

FOR SALE: Mini Chairman van purchased new July 1980, for £5,500, and good as new. The van is adapted to carry a wheelchair passenger and has 2,200 miles on the clock. Asking price £4,000 ono. Contact T. S. Hunter, 72 Athara Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9PD.

ENGAGEMENT: Mr and Mrs G. H. Allard, of Kindersley Way, Abbots Langley, Watford, Herts, announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Rosemary, to the only son of Mr and Mrs A. Sangster.

RECENTLY married at St Andrew's Church, High Wycombe, were two members of the South Bucks Spastics Society, Valerie Nixon and Tony Smith, daily attenders at the Society's Princess Marina Centre, Seers Green. After a reception at the Centre's Tithe Barn, the couple went to their new home, a flat at Shaftesbury House, Craigwell Avenue, Aylesbury.

ZIMBABWE: Occupational therapist needed to contribute to a training course for rehabilitation assistants who will provide basic physiotherapy and other rehabilitation services to disabled people living in rural areas. He/she should have an

orientation towards vocational training and community services.

Two-year contract; return fare to the UK; equipment and other allowances; intensive orientation; a basic salary is paid to cover living costs.

Write to: CIIR Overseas Section, 22 Coleman Fields, London N1. 354 0883. Quote ref: 55/1.

DRAMA with the Blind and Visually Handicapped, January 29-31, 1982: This weekend course is intended for blind and partially-sighted people and those who work with the blind in a capacity where drama might be used as an educational, recreational or therapeutic pursuit.

The course will be tutored by Judy Fairclough and colleagues who have done a great deal of work in this field and who have run several courses for drama specialists working with the blind. The aims and objectives of drama with the visually handicapped will be outlined and there will be workshop, demonstration and practical sessions for all those attending.

Tuition: £32; residence: £30. Supplement of £2 per night for single room.

Applications, which should be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of £10, should be sent to the Principal at Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0HE. Telephone Wallingford (0491) 37551.

THE Trustees of the Lady Allen of Hurtwood Memorial Trust will make an Award for a travel scholarship in 1982.

The scholarship is to enable people working with children, particularly the deprived or handicapped, to travel in order to extend their knowledge or experience for the benefit of their work. The scholarship is likely to be approximately £500. Applications in writing to be submitted by January 1, 1982.

Details from: The Secretary, Lady Allen of Hurtwood Memorial Trust, The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ.

Spastics Shops success

I AM sure that Spastics News needs no help from me in explaining its coverage of the Canterbury Shop in your October issue — but I write as "the paid Manageress" referred to in Mr Barker's letter of criticism (published in the November issue).

I would certainly not wish to appear as taking the credit for any success our shop has had — indeed, if the object of the article had been to assess relative merits (which I am sure it was not), there could only be one serious contender, namely, the general public who, whatever their own problems, continue to support us every day of the week, both bringing and buying, and without whose generous support none of us would be in business or thinking about the appointment of "credit."

P. N. CARTER (Mrs), 16 Abbey Street, Faversham, Kent.

A ride inside

WHEN Princess Anne visited the Society's gymkhana held at the Royal Riding School in Buckingham Palace, she learnt all about the new indoor riding school to be built at the Society's Meldreth Manor School. The children have had to practice their riding in a windswept Cambridge-shire field, but already £17,000 has been raised towards the £25,000 needed for the school. Not only will the children benefit by being under cover, the centre will be made available for community use in order to promote integration.

Before it ends: This is what IYDP '81 was really all about

THE basis for the International Year of Disabled People was the United Nations' Charter on the human rights of the handicapped. Has IYDP helped achieve the ideal world strived for in the 13-point Charter?

1. A "disabled person" is any person unable to ensure by himself or herself a normal life, as a result of a deficiency in his or her physical or mental capabilities.
2. Disabled persons shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration without discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, state of wealth, birth or any other situation applying to the disabled person, or to the person's family.
3. Disabled persons have the inherent right to respect for their human dignity. Disabled persons have the same fundamental rights as their fellow-citizens of the same age, first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal and full as possible.
4. Disabled persons have the same civil and political rights as other human beings.
5. Disabled persons are entitled to measures designed to enable them to become as self-reliant as possible.
6. Disabled persons have the right to medical, psychological and functional treatment, to education, vocational training and rehabilitation, and to other services which will enable them to develop their capabilities to the maximum and hasten their social integration.
7. Disabled persons have the right to economic and social security and, according to their capabilities, to engage in a useful, productive and remunerative occupation and to join trade unions.
8. Disabled persons are entitled to have their special needs taken into consideration at all stages of economic and social planning.
9. Disabled persons have the right to live with their families or with foster parents and to participate in all social, creative or recreational activities. If the stay of a disabled person in a specialised establishment is indispensable, the living conditions therein shall be as close as possible to those of the normal life of a person of his or her age.
10. Disabled persons shall be protected against all exploitation, all regulations and all treatment of a discriminatory, abusive or degrading nature.
11. Disabled persons shall be able to avail themselves of qualified legal aid, and when such aid proves indispensable for the protection of their person and property.
12. Organisations of disabled persons may be usefully consulted in all matters regarding the rights of disabled persons.
13. Disabled persons, their families and communities shall be fully informed, by all appropriate means, of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Meeting India's PM



● MRS Mithu Alur, chairman of the Spastics Society of India, stresses a point to Premier Mrs Indira Gandhi at a meeting attended by Alf Morris, MP, Tim Yeo, Director of The Spastics Society, Leslie Gardner, the Society's principal psychologist, and Miss Margaret Morgan, Controller of Personal Social Services for the Society. On the left of Mrs Alur are the Society's co-founder Mr Alex Moira and Mrs Mita Nundy, principal, Centre for Special Education, New Delhi.

—And tax problems were on the agenda

THE problems facing charities are the same the world over as Tim Yeo, the Society's Director, discovered during a conference tour of India in November.

For he found himself face-to-face with Mrs Indira Gandhi arguing the need for tax relief for the Spastics Society of India. The meeting came about during a tour organised by the Action India Group.

The group works in close collaboration both with the Society in this country and the Spastics Society of India to help with the problems of India's handicapped.

Said the Director: "It was ironic after pleading for tax relief here to find at a meeting with the Prime Minister of the world's second largest country that I was part of the team asking for special tax concessions for the Spastics Society of India. We were also there to ask her if she would give sympathetic consideration to the direction of funds, made available to the Indian Government from abroad, for projects to do with disabled people, particularly for projects of the Spastics Society of India."

"I was very impressed that Mrs Gandhi should find the time on the day that the Indian Parliament opened, to discuss the Spastics Society of India and this must reflect interest on her part in the problems of disabled people in the country. It was a very valuable meeting."

Also sitting at the conference table was Mithu Alur, Chairman of the Spastics Society of India, Britain's Mr Alf Morris, MP, former Minister for the Disabled, and also from London, Leslie Gardner, the Society's Principal Psychologist, and Miss Margaret Morgan, the Society's Controller of Personal Social Services.

They were all giving papers at the conferences which were held under the title: "The Able Disabled — India's Investment" in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore. Other speakers from the UK included Carol Myer of the White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, and Alex Moira, the

Society's co-founder.

There was an opportunity for delegates to visit centres of special education in Bombay and Delhi, and there was a meeting with Mother Theresa in Delhi who delivered an address to the conference there.

Said Tim Yeo: "The status of disabled people generally is very low and the Society there is doing real pioneering work in showing that spastic children can be educated to quite high standards. An experimental school opened in a village outside Delhi that we saw may provide a model for other Indian villages to copy, and other parts of the Third World too."

Will he get the money?

WILL Eades, the Society's South East senior appeals officer is hoping that his latest fund-raising effort won't go up in smoke.

For Will made the supreme sacrifice — from 30 cigarettes a day he gave up completely and now he's waiting to hear from sponsors that his sacrifice was worthwhile. He cheerfully admits that the reason he gave up initially was health, and that the first few days were the worst.

"The motivation for not smoking was the thought of all my sponsors on my back if I started again. Now, I've successfully done 10 weeks and I'm waiting to hear from the sponsors who were backing me. Many were on the Chalfont Line holiday I took in August — I don't have addresses for them."

Now he hopes they are going to subscribe £100 to £150 in sponsorship money. And Will is feeling fitter but fatter. "I didn't save any money — in fact I spent more on sweets and now I'm trying to give up chewing gum! Obviously it's going to take a lot of Will-power." Sponsorship money should be sent to Will at 69 Wilbury Avenue, Hove, Sussex BN3 6GH.

"HELP FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED"



British Gas offers a wide range of help to those who need it most, particularly the elderly and disabled.

If you are elderly or disabled, here are some of the ways in which we can make life easier for you. If you know somebody who might benefit from these services, please pass the information to them.

FREE GAS SAFETY CHECKS

Make sure that your gas appliances are working safely and efficiently by having them serviced. And make sure that servicing is only done by competent people.

A free gas safety check on your gas appliances and installations is available if: You are 65 or over and you live alone; You are a registered handicapped person of any age and you live alone.

This free check includes any necessary adjustments as well as materials up to the cost of £2.50 (including VAT). You might have to pay for any additional work that needs to be done.

Gas fires, water heaters and central heating systems all need servicing from time to time. All customers can be assured that their appliances are operating safely and efficiently if they have them serviced regularly.

You should also bear in mind that checking and making safe a suspected gas leak is FREE for all customers. Simple gas leak repairs will also usually be free. If you suspect a gas leak at home or in the street, report it at once. The phone is quickest — call the emergency number for your area, under "GAS" in the local telephone directory.

AIDS FOR THE DISABLED

Modern gas appliances are much easier for disabled people to use. Gas built-in ovens and hotplates can be placed at a convenient height in the kitchen for people in wheelchairs or for people who find it difficult to bend down or reach up when they are cooking. Most cookers and fires now have automatic spark ignition and need no matches to light them.

If you have a hand disability, you might find the controls on your cooker or gas fire difficult to operate. British Gas has devised a range of special adaptors

which should make life easier. There are four types of tap handles specially designed for cookers, each of which will fit many different models, and tap adaptors for many gas fires.

There is a nominal standard charge of £2 (plus VAT) per appliance for supplying and fitting adaptors to a new or existing appliance.

If you know someone who is blind or has failing sight, please tell them about braille controls for cookers and central heating. The clock controls which switch central heating on and off can be brailled. Special braille or studded oven thermostat dials are available for most gas cookers, together with braille cooking charts.

ASK US TO HELP YOU

British Gas has a team of Home Service Advisers, who will call on disabled people at home and provide free advice on the use of gas. They can provide information about special adaptors and handles and advise on the choice of suitable appliances.

If you would like to contact the Home Service Advisers or to enquire about free gas safety checks, regular servicing for appliances or aids for the disabled, visit your local gas showroom or telephone the gas service centre (the phone number is under "GAS" in the local directory).

The showroom can also tell you about easier ways to pay your gas bills, and how to get help if there is real hardship — ask for the Code of Practice, "Electricity and gas bills for your home." It can also provide advice on energy conservation, helping you to save gas and save money.

BRITISH GAS



Christmas appeal from the Director

THIS is the Christmas appeal letter from the Society's Director Tim Yeo sent to newspapers throughout the country:

I should like to ask your readers at the end of this International Year of Disabled People to spare a thought over Christmas for the handicapped men, women and children for whom the International Year of Disabled People does not end at the end of 1981 but continues next year and every year after that.

At a time when both central and local government have to limit or even reduce the services which they offer to handicapped people, the work which a voluntary organisation like The Spastics Society does becomes all the more important.

The Society's work covers a wide range of services for spastic people, including education and further education, residential accommodation, workshops, adult house units, social work services and many other activities. In addition, the Society sponsors an important research programme which is aimed at finding ways of reducing the risk of babies being born handicapped in the future.

Costly

Naturally, this all costs a lot of money and in the Society's latest financial year its expenditure on the above services exceeded income by more than £1 million.

At a time when costs are increasing continuously, the Society has to do everything

it can to raise its income in order to maintain the invaluable services on which so many people depend.

Accordingly, I am writing to ask readers if they can give us a helping hand by supporting our annual appeal, by sending us a donation, or by buying our Christmas cards or gifts.

Every penny which is given to us brings hope and help to the many spastic children and adults in our care.

OVER 100 companies, ranging from large well-known organisations, such as the National Coal Board and British Petroleum, to small manufacturing companies, are recipients of the 1981 Manpower Services Commission's "Fit for Work" Awards given in recognition of their achievements in employing disabled people.

A cross-section of industry and commerce had been among the 412 applications received from employers.



OVER 100,000 entries were received for the Autumn '81 Competition for Spastics Pool supporters. The winner of the first prize of a Mini Metro was Mr J. E. Owen, of Cae Mur, Caernarvon.

One hundred entrants receive second prizes of wine and spirit packs, and 500 third prize winners

News about the Spastics Pool

receive a bottle of whisky and a bottle of gin.

Picture shows the judg-

ing panel, seated from left to right, Don Moss and Deborah Appleby from HTV's quiz programme, "Definition," Mr Roy Laver, managing director, Top Ten Promotions, and Peter Broderick, company secretary, under the watchful eyes of John Gardiner, executive of the Winners' Department.



● AREA supervisor Jack Kirby presenting a first dividend cheque for £1,666 to Mrs M. Smallwood, of Scunthorpe. Also pictured collector Mrs C. Gilbert, and Mr P. Gilbert, who won a share of the Third Dividend.

Photograph courtesy of Ken Wardle



● **HIGHDENE** Special School, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol, has received a £2,000 donation from the Pool's Good Neighbours' Trust. Highdene accommodates boys from disadvantaged homes. Close contact with family, social and educational workers is maintained and particular attention is devoted to individual emotional and educational needs. The school, open for 52 weeks of the year, operates a standard 37-week teaching year, offering basic subjects to CSE and "O" level standard.

Picture shows trustees Mr Geoffrey Arter and Mr Kenneth Long and Terrence Bridgeman (far right), director of the project, with three of the boys.



● IT was all smiles in Southend-on-Sea when Mr W. Flack received a first dividend cheque for £1,250 from Mickey Stead, captain of Southend United Football Club. Also pictured, area supervisor Mrs E. Perryman, and collectors Mr and Mrs O. Haggard.



● **FRED** Housego (centre), BBC's Mastermind 1980, may know all the answers but Mrs M. Miller and Mr M. Smith know how to win prizes — simply join the Spastics Charity Football Pool. Mrs Miller is seen holding her cheque for £1,666 and Mr Smith a

cheque for £5,000 at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow, in November.

Said Chris Robson, Spastic Pool's regional manager, "I am indeed grateful to Fred Housego for giving up his time to present the cheques, and also to Trust House Forte for providing the facilities free of charge."



● **ANDY** Mac, Manx radio personality, auctioning an item with Spastics Pool Collector, Florence Codlett, a trustee of the Isle of Man Spastics Welfare Fund, at the Shore Hotel, Laxey. The £342.50 raised during the evening will go towards a Christmas party for local handicapped children at the Sefton Hotel, Douglas, on December 6.

Billy and Dolly Curphey organised a Paddy's Market at St Olave's Church Hall, Ramsey, in October and, once again, all proceeds were donated to the Christmas party fund. Billy and Dolly have been Spastics Pool Collectors since 1957 and have been responsible for raising many thousands of pounds for charity.



● AREA Supervisor Mrs M. H. Kerrigan couldn't have called on Mr and Mrs McDonald with a first dividend cheque for £714 at a better time. The couple, of Edward Avenue, Stenhousemuir, were leaving the next day for a holiday in Spain.

● THE pictures on this page show just some of the benefits of Pool membership. Are you a member? If not, write to: Top Ten Promotions Limited, PO Box 215, Pennywell Road, Bristol BS99 7QX.

WHEELCHAIRS Ashley Mobility

Sole distributors of Vessa Ltd's 'Vitesse' Power-Chair with Korb Climbers and Hand-Propelled Chairs in the Midlands and Powys.

'Vitesse' and 'Standard' available on Motability HP.
Hay Road, Hay Mills, Birmingham
B25 8HY. Telephone 021-772 5364.
Also at Warndon, Worcester
(Telephone 28575)

Helping children understand disability

TWO very different books have been launched to mark the International Year of Disabled People, with the common theme of children.

"All This Fuss About Andy" is a Benjamin book published by the Church of England General Board of Finance Publishing Depart-

ment and written by Pamela Egan, whose mother-in-law Dr Dorothy Egan is a consultant paediatrician at the Newcomen Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London.

The book deals with the sensitive issue of how a small child comes to terms with having a handicapped

sibling. Bright, clear drawings accompany the simple text devised to get the message across to children who have just learned to read and may be feeling particularly vulnerable at the attention focused on the handicapped member of the family.

"What it's Like to be Me" comes from Exley Publica-

tions and is the work throughout of children who themselves are handicapped. Contributions are from all over the world and vividly get the message across that they want to be treated just like anybody else.

Occasionally the children completely forget to mention the fact that they are disabled and where handicap is mentioned it is done so without self-pity. Bitterness is directed towards the uncar-

ing and thoughtless who see them as different to themselves because of a wheelchair or walking frame.

"All This Fuss About Andy" costs 30p and can be obtained from CIO Publishing, Church House, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ. "What it's Like to be Me" is edited by Helen Exley, Exley Publications, 12 Ye Corner, Chalk Hill, Watford, Herts, WD1 4BS, and costs £8.95.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY: SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

Here is a directory of the Society's national establishments
for you to keep for future reference

SCHOOLS

Craig-Y-Parc School, Penttyrch, Cardiff CF4 8NB. Tel (0222) 890397. Headmistress, Mrs M. Fowler. 60 places, age range 5 to 14.

Ingfield Manor School, Five Oaks, Nr Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9AX. Tel (040 381) 2294. Mr P. A. Fairweather. 61—5 to 16. Also Conductive Education Unit. 12—3 to 6.

Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 6LG. Tel (0763) 60771. Mr J. T. Hall. 125—5 to 16.

Beech Tree House, Address as for Meldreth Manor School. Tel (0763) 61591. Principal psychologist, Dr M. C. Jones. 8—5 to 16.

Thomas Delarue School, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NP. Tel (0732) 35484 (3 lines). Mr P. K. Mayhew MA. 104—12 to 18.

Trengweath School, Hartley Road, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5LP. Tel (0752) 771975/773735. Miss D. V. Carpenter. 55 including 14 boarders—2 to 16.

Rutland House School, 1 Elm Bank, Mapperley Road, Nottingham NG3 5AJ. Tel (0602) 621315. Mrs C. A. Oviatt-Ham. 20—5 to 16.

Wilfred Pickles School, Tixover Grange, Duddington, Nr Stamford, Lincs PE9 3QN. Tel (078 083) 643. Mr R. A. Pedder. 60 resident, 10 day—5 to 16.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hawksworth Hall School, Hawksworth, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8NU. Tel (09437) 72914. Mr F. Jagger. 28—5 to 12.

FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRES

Beaumont College, Slyne Road, Lancaster LA2 6AP. Tel (0524) 64278/9. Mr G. Marshall. 70—16+.

Dene College, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NT. Tel (0732) 355101. Mr J. H. Hall. 40—16 to 18.

FIELD STUDIES AND ADVENTURE HOLIDAY CENTRE

Churchtown Farm, Lanlivery, Bodmin, Cornwall. Tel (020 887) 8148. Warden, Dr M. J. Cotton. 24-40—All ages.

STAFF TRAINING COLLEGE

Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Tel (0491) 37551. Mrs J. W. Knowles. 38.

FAMILY HELP UNIT

East Anglia Family Help Unit, Shakers Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Tel (0284) 3957. Mrs M. K. Cresswell. 15—1 month to 16 years.

SHORT STAY CENTRE FOR ADULTS

Chiltern House, Hill Top Road, Oxford OX4 1PH. Tel (0865) 46641. Matron, Mrs A. E. Hillary. 9—14+.

RESIDENTIAL ADULT CENTRES

"The Bedford," 34 St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XL. Tel (0298) 3541. Warden, Mr D. H. Simpson. 48—16+.

Gladys Holman House, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 8TB. Tel (0209) 713729. Mr J. O. Dellar. 24—16+.

Coombe Farm, Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 5AR. Tel (01) 654 2310. Mr B. G. Peet. 42—16+.

Daresbury Hall, Daresbury, Nr Warrington, Cheshire WA14 4AG. Tel (092 574) 359. Mr F. Osman. 52—16+.

Drummonds, Feering, Colchester, Essex CO5 9QJ. Tel (0376) 70711. Mr R. D. Smith. 51—16+.

Grangewood Centre, High Street, Kelvedon, Colchester, Essex CO5 9AG. Tel 0376 70208. Mr J. B. Oldham. 34—16+.

Jacques Hall, Bradfield, Nr Manningtree, Essex CO11 2XW. Tel (025 587) 311. After 6.00 pm (025 587) 366. Mr S. K. Mitchell. 24—16+.

Kyre Park House, Kyre Magna, Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8RP. Tel (08854) 282. Mr C. Hedley. 48—16+.

Princess Marina Centre, Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Nr Beaconsfield, Bucks HR9 2QR. Tel (024 07) 4231. Mr P. E. Lee. 54—16+.

Thorngrove Agricultural Centre, Thorngrove, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4PR. Tel (074 76) 2241/2. General Manager Mr E. A. Rhodes. Warden Mr T. S. Wallace. Production Manager Mr P. C. Hunter. 28—16+.

RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE CENTRE

Douglas Arter Centre, Odstock Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Tel (0722) 20318/9. Mr C. J. Hardwicke. 24 including 8 residents—16+.

HOTELS

The Bedford Hotel, Marine Parade, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. Tel (0255) 25230. Mrs J. P. R. Molyneux. 25—All ages.

The Garwood Hotel, 8 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, Sussex PO21 2RJ. Tel (024 33) 20535. Mr O. J. Simmons. 16—All ages.



● Thorngrove Centre.



● Meldreth Manor School.



● Churchtown Farm.



● East Anglia Family Help Unit.

ADULT HOUSE UNITS

Basingstoke Adult House Unit, Roman House, Winklebury Way, Basingstoke, Hants RG23 8BJ. Tel (0256) 28329. Warden and Housekeeper, Mr and Mrs J. R. Rigby. 25—16+.

Cardiff Adult House Unit, Bryn Awel, 127 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, Glamorgan. Tel (0222) 757179. Warden and Manageress, Mr and Mrs T. E. Davies. 14—16+.

Cyncoed Flats, 127 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, Glamorgan. Tel (0222) 750868. Warden and Housekeeper, Mr and Mrs M. Lomas. 8 x two-person flats. 16+.

Harpden Adult House Unit, Redclyffe, 21 Salisbury Avenue, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2QF. Tel (05827) 68414. Warden and Housekeeper, Mr and Mrs J. R. Proctor. 26—16+.

Kingston Adult House Unit, 11 Lingfield Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2TL. Tel (01) 546 2905. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs R. Tanner. 12—16+.

Northampton Adult House Unit, Hampton House, Tonmead Road, Lumbertubs, Northampton NN3 4JX. Tel (0604) 403733. Warden, Mr C. H. Knowlton. 26—16+.

DAY CENTRE

Barnsley Day Centre, 66 Rotherham Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Tel (0226) 20370. Supervisor, Miss M. Fielding. 15—16+.

HOSTELS

Birmingham Hostel, Broadstones Road, Off Meadway, Sheldon, Birmingham 6. Tel (021 783) 6532. Manager, Mr S. H. Lawton. 80—18 to retirement age.

Chester Hostel, 5 Newton Lane, Hoole, Chester, Cheshire CH2 3RB. Tel (0244) 47283. Manager and Manageress Mr and Mrs D. G. Naden. 10—18+.

Eastcote Hostel, 8 Sunningdale Avenue, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex. Tel (01) 868 7900. Manageress, Mrs L. Sibley. 8—18+.

Halifax Hostel, Heathbank, Linden Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0BS. Tel (0422) 54632. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs R. Wadsworth. 13—18+.

Norwich Hostel, 403 Unthank Road, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel (0603) 52649. Housekeeper, Mrs J. P. Pidgeon. 9—18+.

Penarth Hostel, Mena House, 78 Victoria Road, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF6 2HZ. Tel (0222) 701 817. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs N. Turner. 13—18+.

Rockingham Hostel, Greenside Lane, Greaseborough, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S61 4PT. Tel (0709) 551 971. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs T. Payne. 12—16+.

Southampton Hostel, Merlyn House, West End Road, Southampton, Hants. Tel (04218) 3166. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs W. Powell. 13—16+.

Swansea Hostel, Ynyswern, 94 Newton Road, Mumbles, Swansea, West Glamorgan. Tel (0792) 60279. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs K. Marchant. 10—18+.

Thornton Heath Hostel, 215 Melfort Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey. Tel (01) 684 9155 (Residents). (01) 689 7060 (Housekeeper). Housekeeper, Mrs P. Messina. 4 bedsitting accommodation.

Woodford Hostel, 6 Snakes Lane, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BS. Tel (01) 505 0406. Manager and Manageress, Mr and Mrs G. Naden. 18+.

Milton Keynes Community Care Service, 8 Barbers Mews, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Tel (0908) 661122. Care Organiser, Mrs S. A. Panton. Up to 42—16+.

Neath Hill Professional Workshop, 1 Fletchers Mews, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 6HW. Tel (0908) 660364. Project Co-ordinator, Mr P. J. Deakin.

WORK CENTRES

Abbots Langley Work Centre, Off Jacketts Field, Abbots Langley, Watford, Herts WD5 0PA. Tel (40) 67011. Mr T. F. Pope. 55—16 upwards.

Chester Work Centre, Western Avenue, Off Saughall Road, Blacon, Chester, Cheshire. Tel (0244) 377239. Mr H. Forster. 45—16 upwards.

Chingford Work Centre, Miriam Harris Work Centre, Weale Road, Chingford, London E4 6JL. Tel (01) 524 1151. Mr J. O. Valerio. 60—16 upwards.

North Manchester Work Centre, Victoria Avenue East, Blackley, Manchester M9 2HZ. Tel (061) 681 6492. Mr J. Burke. 55—16 upwards.

Plymouth Work Centre, Eric Robinson Work Centre, Hartley Road, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5LP. Tel (0752) 775 694. Mr G. R. Johnson. 30—16 upwards.

Sheffield Work Centre, Cockshutts Lane, Oughtibridge, Nr Sheffield, South Yorkshire S30 3FX. Tel (074) 162 764. Mr S. Crowther. 60—16 upwards.

Sully Work Centre, Hayes Road, Sully N, Nr Penarth, South Glamorgan CF6 2SE. Tel (04462) 733418. Mr E. Smith. 70—16 upwards.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE

Sherrards, Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9AW. Tel (070 73) 35231(5). General Manager, Mr E. W. Curtis. 66—16 upwards.

SHELTERED WORKSHOP

Meadway Works, Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0SQ. Tel (021) 783 6081. General Manager, Mr M. E. Dilloway. 120—16 upwards.

Contracts Department (and Homework Section). Address as for Miriam Harris Work Centre. Tel (01) 524 4785. Contracts Manager, Mr M. Loseby.

Cwmbran Work Centre, Avondale Way, Cwmbran, Gwent NP4 1TT. Tel (0633) 2848. Manager, Mr E. Bailey. 45—16 upwards.

UNITS RUN BY THE STARS ORGANISATION FOR SPASTICS

Good Neighbours House, 38 Mary Datchelor Close, London SE5 7AX. Tel (01) 703 7451. Manager, Mrs E. P. Mitchellmore-Hawkins. 26—18+.

Wakes Hall, Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex CO6 2DB. Tel (078 75) 2044. Principal, Mr S. Richardson. 25—30+.

HOTEL

Colwall Court Hotel, Pages Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Tel (0424) 211491. Manager, Mr W. N. Simpson. 22—5-16.

'Not enough' says Society to Government's £1m plan to bring the children out of long-stay hospitals

"FORGOTTEN and vulnerable" children will spend Christmas in the wards of long-stay hospitals, and the money the Government is providing to bring them out into family-style homes in the community is "totally inadequate."

So said The Spastics Society's Director, Tim Yeo, on December 7, in an open letter to Lord Elton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DHSS, commenting on the Government's new scheme to encourage the transfer of mentally handicapped children out of the wards into community homes.

Unfortunately, the Government is only offering

£1 million, with the intention that it will be matched £1 for £1 with funds from voluntary organisations for small units.

A grand total of £2 million, "totally inadequate" says Tim Yeo to make any real impression on the lives of the 2,000 children still in long-stay hospitals. He estimates that on the basis of the Society's experience of funding units such as its unique Beech Tree House at Meldreth Manor School, the money would provide community places for only 80 children.

Therefore, the Government's money should be increased at least 20 times, he said, if these forgotten children, probably the most vulnerable in our society,

are to be given the chance of a happier future in more suitable surroundings.

Tim Yeo also criticised the planned working of the scheme which would require applications for new homes to go through several local authority departments. This would mean a maze of bureaucracy — and in addition the local councils would have to agree to fund children in the new homes once they were built, no easy task at a time of cuts in public spending.

The sad result is that without more money from Government the vast proportion of those 2,000 children are destined to spend many more Christmases in sub-normality hospital wards.

Spastics News tells how a council helps parents cope

Adam has two loving families

THE worst aspect of having Adam Redlich for Ros Clayton was having to choose him in the first place. Since joining in the Camden Social Services "Parent-to-Parent" scheme, though, Ros has no regrets at all: "Adam has become very much part of my family. I think about him a lot and we've all grown very fond of him."

Adam is the eight-year-old spastic son of an engineer and a social worker who live in Hampstead and he is multiply-handicapped. He has a sister, Sarah, aged seven.

The two families were brought together by the imaginative scheme introduced into the area by Lesley Campbell of Camden Social Services who stressed that only two qualifications were necessary for families to benefit from it. They had to have a handicapped child and they had to live in Camden.

"There is no kind of means test, you don't have to prove that you are at the end of your tether and can't cope, for instance," Lesley explained.

Ros first learnt of it through a story in her local paper and went along to the inaugural meeting. A teacher with two small children of her own, she had had a cousin with severe spina bifida. "I've always been interested in children, particularly the handicapped."

An initial training programme of eight courses discussing various aspects of disability then followed before Lesley brought round a dossier to the Clayton home in Camden.

"I felt a bit awful about having to choose a child. At first I'd been thinking of having a smaller child — I hurt my back some time ago and I knew I couldn't manage a child that was too heavy. I wasn't put off by the nature of the disability, but I knew that I couldn't risk having a child with very severe behavioural problems, violent and hyper-active because my own children are so young and our flat too small to cope with it."

"And I also knew I couldn't take a child from a problem family — you

know, one where it wasn't loved or cared for properly. I didn't want to take on a child and know that when it went home it would be ill-treated or neglected."

But Ros is quick to quash the idea that she and others acting as "parent support workers" as they are known, are doing it out of a spirit of "doing good."

"I joined because I was interested — then I discovered we would be paid for it. At first I didn't want to take money but then it was explained that parents using the scheme were less likely to take it up if volunteers were just helping them. They would feel they were imposing."

Session

Ros gets paid £5.75 for each session whether it lasts an hour or a day and the scale runs from £4 to £10 where the child involved makes very heavy demands on the caring family.

Camden Council also indemnifies families against any damage caused by the child while in the families' charge, and the support parents also have complete parental rights while the child is with them, in case of emergency medical treatment.

The Claytons have been looking after Adam regularly for over a year now, usually for a day every three or four weeks. Initially, Ros's husband, Martin, a researcher at the Central London Polytechnic, wasn't over-enthusiastic. "He felt that as we already had two small children we didn't need to take on any more." But the reality of Adam has changed all that.

"After choosing Adam — Lesley thought we'd be



a good match — we went to visit Adam's family and of course we all felt a bit fraught at first but we all took to each other, and Kate Redlich brought Adam to visit us."

Gradually Adam got to know his new "friends," smiling at them in recognition when he was in hospital recovering from an operation to enable him to walk.

On the first few occasions when his mother left him with the Claytons he would grizzle for a short while and that is when Ros's own children, Esther, now five, and Joshua, almost two, came into their own. They would immediately start playing with him, making sure that he was enjoying himself, said Ros.

"The children have benefited enormously from Adam and he's very much part of the family."

And for the Redlich family there is a feeling of

relief that there is somewhere for Adam to go that is not an institution and where he is made much of. The Claytons are his "special friends" and he knows he is important to them.

ROS gives Adam a cuddle, as Esther brings a toy to share with the little boy who has become part of the Clayton family, while Joshua looks on. Below: Kate Redlich with Esther and Adam.



'Last day' cover for IYDP

DURHAM County Spastics Society is ensuring that the last day of the International Year of Disabled People will not go unrecorded. The Society is issuing a special commemorative cover for December 31 which will bear the 22p IYDP stamp showing a figure in a wheelchair and the distinctive "Sanctuary" knocker of Durham Cathedral. The last day covers will be cancelled with a handstamp incorporating the IYDP logo.

David Bellamy, the TV personality, will sign 250 of the 1,000 covers being produced and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Michael Ramsey, will sign another 250.

Demand

Should the Society be swamped with a demand for the covers, and the cover is over-subscribed, additional ones without signature and with the equivalent value Christmas stamp will be available.

The cost will be £2 for signed covers and £1 for the unsigned. They are available from Mr M. G. Aekroyd, 2 Whitesmoaks Avenue, North End, Durham City, DH1 4HP. He asks for all orders stating the preference required and the alternative acceptable, and the number wanted should be submitted with the correct remittance plus a 9 x 6 stamped, addressed envelope.

Cheques and postal orders should be made out to Durham County Spastics Society and the envelopes will be sent under the separate cover provided by the applicant unless otherwise stated.

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